

Notice: New Law

Senate Bill No. 564, Chapter 481, Statutes of 2002

On Sept. 11, 2002, Governor Davis signed Senate Bill 564 which was authored by state Sen. Jackie Speier. This bill amends sections 2914 and 2915 of the California Business and Professions Code.

This bill will, in part, increase the number of contact hours of coursework or training in spousal or partner abuse assessment, detection, and intervention strategies required to become licensed as a psychologist. It would also require continuing education in this area for renewal applicants.

Currently, this course of training is not required for renewal applicants.

This bill will require any applicant for licensure as a psychologist who began graduate study on or after Jan. 1, 2004 to complete a minimum of 15 contact hours of coursework in spousal or partner abuse assessment, detection, and intervention strategies. An exemption may be requested by the applicant if they intend to practice in an area that does not include the direct provision of mental health services.

Additionally, on Jan. 1, 2004, this new law will require all licensed psychologists who began graduate study prior to Jan. 1, 2004 to take a course in spousal or partner abuse assessment, detection and intervention strategies for his or her first renewal after the operative date of this new law. This is a one-time renewal requirement.

The statute does not specify the number of hours required, however, section 1397.60(c) of the Board's regulations defines a course as an approved systematic learning experience of at least one hour in length. Although one hour is the minimum for any course, to fulfill this particular requirement, the course must be of sufficient length to cover spousal or partner abuse assessment, detection, and intervention strategies, including community resources, cultural factors, and same gender abuse dynamics.

This course must be taken within the two-year period immediately preceding the expiration date of the license. Equivalent teaching or practice experience may be submitted and accepted by the board of this requirement. A psychologist's license cannot be renewed until the licensee certifies under penalty of perjury on the license renewal form of the completion of the required course.

The language of the new law can be accessed at www.leginfo.ca.gov.